

MODERN STUDIES IN FRANCE DESCRIBED BY THE PRESIDENT OF HAVFORD COLLEGE.

WORCESTER, AUG. 14, 1886.

The *Conseil Supérieur de l'Instruction Publique* in France has revised, this summer, the programmes of the lycées and other secondary schools, and created a new "modern" course in which baccalaureate degrees can be taken, admitting candidates to various public employments and to the Polytechnic and the military and forestry schools. The studies are in part some of those required for the degree of Bachelor of Science, and in part those of the "special course" of general studies which was founded twenty years ago but has not proved very successful. In the opinion of the promoters of this scholastic revolution, students whose circumstances will debar them from taking a long course in Greek and Latin "ought to have the opportunity of receiving, in addition to their commercial and professional education, an excellent intellectual culture, fitted to make laborious employees enlightened administrators and useful citizens." The instruction, which covers six years, is to be scientific, literary and general; the modern languages taking the place of Latin and Greek. Both French and German are required. In the west of France each pupil must study German at least four years and English at least two, in the eastern half of the Republic English four years and German two. It is designed that the modern languages shall be so taught as to require very hard study and afford a thorough discipline. Besides enabling the students to read, speak and write them fluently and well, the course is expected to develop and train their literary taste, and incidentally to instruct them in regard to life and manners, history, morals and politics, by methods similar to those pursued by the best classical teachers. The new Minister of Instruction, M. Goblet, evidently feels that the chief weakness of the new course is on the aesthetic and ethical side, and has tried to strengthen it accordingly.

The Minister of Instruction takes pains to avow that it wages no war against Greek and Latin, "the study of the ancient languages and literatures," says M. Zérvout, director of the ministry, "for some years the object of so many controversies, has retained and must necessarily retain in the future its high aesthetic and moral value. On it we all depend, both partisans and opponents; it is from it that for 2000 years what is called *Esprit Français* has proceeded, with its eminent qualities of clearness, neatness and precision, good sense, originality, and sane moderation and proportion. It is hence that our superior instruction will continue to recruit itself, one of our purest glories, a model system of instruction whose weight and influence increase with all the progress of modern societies." But it takes the view that Greek and Latin are best adapted for those who choose the higher professions or are to lead literary or leisurely lives, and that the new course will be better suited for the "lower middle class" and candidates for the practical professions and occupations. It is objected by an able writer that the new plan will create "an aristocracy of students, educated according to the old maxims, and a plebeian class of inferior studies, either from inclination or from laziness." The *Temps*, however, declares that "this division will not be made, this inequality will not exist, because if the two courses have to do with different subjects they are inspired with the same method, and method is everything. Like the instruction in Greek and Latin, the instruction in French aims to expand and open the mind, to enliven the soul with the beautiful, and it will succeed in that aim. The instruction in Greek and Latin, relieved of uninterested students that encumbered it, will regain its suppleness and life, and be enabled to recur to certain exercises which are useless for the masses, but full of fruit for the chosen few."

Besides the modern languages and mathematics, the history of France, physical geography and a careful study of the routes of commerce and the natural products, manufactured and raw, of the various countries—the earth, political economy, commercial law, the natural and physical sciences, especially in their practical application, and an extensive course in drawing, will be required for the new baccalaureate degree. One cannot but agree with the author in which the course has been planned so that the fullest practical advantage shall be derived from every study. The young graduate will not write Greek and Latin verse, but he will know his own country and the world's modern life, and can speak the language of business. But one can quote the English and French poets, and is quick to appreciate the beauties of literature and art.

Such is the ideal of M. Goblet's plan; of an exact and complete instruction which expects to compete successfully with the old classical curriculum. It is acknowledged on all hands in France, as it probably would be generally in the civilized world, that "the modern" course does not yet attain the same high standard of instruction as the old, and that a great deal more work is needed. But one can quote the English and German poets, and is quick to appreciate the beauties of literature and art.

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LITERARY NOTES.

"The Hundred Men" is the title of the novel which Mr. Frank R. Stockton has written for the *Century*. It will run through the forthcoming year, beginning in the November number.

Mr. Howell's "Minister's Charge" is announced as one of the forthcoming publications of Ticknor & Co.

The private life of M. Hector Malot goes far to complete his resemblance to Anthony Trollope, his English prototype. He inhabits, with his wife and his daughter, a pretty red-brick château at Fontenay-sous-Bos, near Paris; he is, like Trollope, up every morning with the lark, and attaches himself to his desk till 10, after which hour (a certain regular amount of literary work having been accomplished) he is his own master until the Malot's curfew tolls at 10 p. m. Once or twice in the month a quiet dinner unites at M. Malot's table some of the leading French writers of the day, and any one who has been present at these little intellectual meetings will have noticed that the host is highly popular among his literary brethren. Yet he is one of the most modest of men. The author of "La Bohème Thaumaturge" has himself never participated in the gayeties of the "Bohème," but has been a spectator from afar of the world's great tragic comedy. M. Malot has not yet passed the limits of middle age. He began his literary career early, and his very first venture was a novel, Fiction, for some years, "paid" so poorly that he was constrained to take the position of secretary to a political personage, who seems to have treated him very much as the M. P. in "Nicholas Nickleby"; would have treated Nicholas had the latter been willing to accept his proposals, giving him, that is to say, a very slender salary, but making a lavish use of his brains. At present, however, M. Malot is one of the most prominent of French novelists.

Mr. Emerson once wrote to his cousin, Dr. Haskins, that he thought a young man could not read Gibbon's "Autobiography" without being provoked to rise a little. The Rev. Mr. Nichols' "Nickleby" would have treated Nichols had the latter been willing to accept his services, salary, but making a lavish use of his brains. At present, however, M. Malot is one of the most prominent of French novelists.

Mr. George M. Pease, author of "A Mosaic Flower," will bring out early next month a novel entitled "Old Bouffon."

Mr. Edward Bright, author of "The Brooklyn Magazine," is the title of the paper which Miss Fauny Daveport has written for *The Brooklyn Magazine*.

A collection of the historical papers of the late Orsman H. Marshall will shortly be published as *Volumes of Munsell's Historical Series*. It will be furnished with an introduction by William L. Stone and will include among other sketches, "Champlain's Expedition in 1613-15 against the Onondagas"; the "Expedition of the Marquis De Noyelle in 1639 against the Senecas"; the "Expedition of De Celeron to the Oislo, in 1749"; "La Salle's first visit to the Senecas in 1699" (privately printed in pamphlet form in 1874); "Historical Sketches of the Niagara Frontier"; read before the Buffalo Historical Society; and "The Building and the Voyage of the Griffon in 1679," also read before the same society. It will also contain an Index heretofore omitted, with historical references, kept by Mr. Marshall during a great portion of his life.

A Texas novel is now in course of publication by Dodd, Mead & Co. It is entitled "Cynthia Dallas: A Nymph of the Colorado," and comes from the pen of Mr. Howard and Seely, author of "A Ranchman's Stories" and "A Lone Star Boy-Scout."

"I am glad to hear," says a *London Post* writer, "that subscriptions are coming in liberally for the purchase of the portrait of Longfellow by Healy, to be presented to Harvard College and hung in the Memorial Hall. It represents me as having done well, and I hope it will be well received."

FRANCIS B. ALLEN'S Class for Boys re-opens September 20, 1886, opposite Bryant Park, 24 West 40th-st., opposite Bryant Park.

JAMES HERBERT MORSE'S SCHOOL FOR BOYS, 19 West 42d-st., re-opens September 20, 1886, at 10:30 a. m.

E. D. LYON'S Late LYON & GILBERT, 41 Madison Avenue, will reopen September 27, 1886.

FRANCIS B. ALLEN'S Class for Boys re-opens September 20, 1886, at 10:30 a. m. in the same room as last year.

F. G. IRISHES Class for Boys, 19 West 42d-st., re-opens September 20, 1886, at 10:30 a. m.

G. GRAMERCY PARK SCHOOL AND TOOL HOUSE, Incorporated, 10 East 2d-st., re-opens September 20, 1886.

G. VON TAUBER'S Principal, Gramercy Park.

INTERMEDIATE AND ACADEMIC SCHOOL FOR BOYS, 171 West 12th-st., Third lesson begins September 20, 1886.

JOHN MACMILLAN'S SCHOOL has been removed to its residence, No. 100 West 18th-st., at home after September 20, 1886.

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JAMES DU VERNE'S SCHOOL FOR BOYS, 162 East 30th-st., re-opens September 20, 1886.

MISS JENNY HUNTER'S school and kindergartens will reopen September 13, 1886, at 10:30 a. m.

MISS REYNOLDS' FAMILY AND DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS, 100 Madison Avenue, re-opens September 20, 1886.

MRS. GRIFFITH'S DAY SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES AND CHILDREN, 414 Madison Avenue, re-opens October 1, 1886.

MME. DE SILVAS' SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS, 100 Madison Avenue, re-opens September 20, 1886.

MRS. SYLVANUS REED'S SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS, 100 Madison Avenue, re-opens September 20, 1886.

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